

# Toys Toys Toys



As the holiday season approaches more and more shoppers will be hitting the streets to find that special something for the youngsters. There are many different kinds of toys to choose from, but keep in mind that some toys can be hazardous to a child. Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind when shopping for the little ones.



- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Check instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.
- To avoid risk of serious eye or ear injury, avoid toys that shoot small objects into the air, or make loud or shrill noises. Parents can hold the noise-making toy next to their ear to determine whether it will be too loud for a child's ears.
- Never buy hobby kits, such as chemistry sets for any child younger than 12 years old. Provide proper supervision for children 12 to 15 years of age.
- Tips of arrows or darts should be blunt, made of soft rubber or flexible plastic and securely fastened to the shaft.
- A child's pediatrician can help parent's decide which toys are safe for newborns, toddlers and teens



## Age Appropriate Toys

**Toys for Baby: Newborn to 1 year.** Choose eye-catching toys that appeal to your baby's sight, hearing, and touch.

- Large blocks of wood or plastic
- Rattles
- Soft, washable animals, dolls, or balls
- Bright, movable objects that are out of baby's reach
- Busy boards
- Floating bath toys
- Squeeze toys



**Toys for Toddlers: 1-2 years.** These toys should be sturdy and be able to withstand a toddler's curiosity.

- Cloth or plastic books with large pictures
- Sturdy dolls
- Kiddy cars
- Musical tops
- Stacking toys
- Toy telephones



**Preschooler Toys: 2-5 years.** These toys should imitate the activity of the parents or older children.

- Books (short stories or action stories)
- Crafts—crayons, markers, chalk and non-toxic finger paints
- Housekeeping toys
- Tape recorders
- Simple puzzles with large pieces
- Dress up clothes



**Toys for Young Children: 5-9 years.** These toys should enhance creativity and skill development

- Crafts
- Card games
- Bicycles
- Balls
- Sports equipment
- Table games
- Computer games



**Preteens: 10-14 years.** Hobbies and scientific activities are ideal for this age group.

- Computer games
- Sewing, knitting, needlework
- Microscopes, telescopes
- Table and board games
- Sports equipment
- Hobby collections

